

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 175997

20

ORIGIN ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 /036 R

DRAFTED BY ACDA/NTB/WT:RROCHLIN:BLM

APPROVED BY ACDA/NTB:TDDAVIES

----- 031553

R 152342Z JUL 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 175997

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: IAEA, PARM, TECH, EG

SUBJECT: QATTARA DEPRESSION PROJECT

REF: CAIRO 1934 (NOTAL)

FOLLOWING IS REPEAT OF CAIRO 2096 DTD 18 FEB 76 FROM  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO:

1. CAIRO PRESS FEBRUARY 17 GAVE FRONT PAGE COVERAGE TO  
CURRENT QATTARA DEPRESSION FEASIBILITY STUDY GROUP  
ACTIVITIES UNDER HEADLINES CLAIMING AMERICAN EXPERTS ARE  
LEADING STUDIES OF USES OF PEACEFUL NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVES  
IN DIGGING CANAL. TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, THIS IS FIRST  
PUBLICITY GIVEN TO ACTIVITIES OF GROUP SINCE PRESIDENT  
SADAT ORDERED FEASIBILITY STUDIES LAST SUMMER.

2. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, SOME OF WHICH ATTRIBUTED TO  
MINELECTRICITY UNDERSEC MAHER ABAZA, THREE U.S. EXPERTS  
WORKING FOR "AMERICAN ORGANIZATION FOR GEONUCLEAR SERVICES"  
(WHICH GIVES STORY OFFICIAL CHARACTER SINCE ALL ORGANIZA-  
TIONS IN EGYPT ARE GOVERNMENT CONTROLLED) ARE CHARGED  
WITH DECIDING WHERE AND HOW TO USE CLEAN NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVES  
IN DIGGING CANAL FROM MEDITERRANEAN TO QATTARA DEPRESSION.  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 175997

EXPERTS REPORTEDLY HAVE RECOMMENDED FOR ENVIRONMENTAL

REASONS THAT FIRST TEN KILOMETERS BE DUG WITH CONVENTIONAL MEANS; LAST TEN WILL ALSO BE DUG WITH CONVENTIONAL MEANS, ANTICIPATING THAT THERE WILL ALREADY BE INSTALLATIONS IN AREA WHICH MIGHT BE DAMAGED. TOTAL LENGTH OF CANAL WILL BE 76 KILOMETERS. ESTIMATED TOTAL COST WILL BE LE120 MILLION WITH NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVES AND LE 400 MILLION USING CONVENTIONAL MEANS.

3. UNDERSEC MAHER ABAZA AGAIN APPROACHED AMBASSADOR FEBRUARY 16 WITH URGENT REQUEST THAT WE PROVIDE NAME OF AMERICAN CONSULTANT FOR ADVISORY BOARD BEFORE CURRENT PHASE OF FEASIBILITY STUDY FINISHED. ABAZA SAID IT INCREASINGLY EMBARRASSING NOT TO HAVE NAME OF AMERICAN MEMBER OF BOARD, ESPECIALLY SINCE WORK HAS COMMENCED. AMBASSADOR REMINDED ABAZA THAT IT IS NOT OUR CURRENT INTENTION TO INVOLVE OURSELVES IN NUCLEAR ASPECTS OF PROJECT FOR REASONS OF WHICH HE COMPLETELY AWARE. AMBASSADOR DID UNDERTAKE, HOWEVER, TO ONCE AGAIN ASK FOR NAME OF EXPERT IN HOPES IT WILL BE AVAILABLE BEFORE THE CURRENT WORK ENDS ON OR ABOUT FEBRUARY 20.

4. REQUEST DEPARTMENT CABLE NAME OF EXPERT, IF AT ALL POSSIBLE, BEFORE THAT DATE. KISSINGER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS), NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS, QATTARA  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 15 JUL 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** KelleyW0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976STATE175997  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** RROCHLIN:BLM  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760274-0542  
**From:** STATE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19760753/aaaabuda.tel  
**Line Count:** 84  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ORIGIN ACDA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 CAIRO 1934  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** KelleyW0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 09 AUG 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** WITHDRAWN <24 MAR 2004 by greeneet, REFER TO DOE>; RELEASED <09 AUG 2004 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <09 AUG 2004 by KelleyW0>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** QATTARA DEPRESSION PROJECT  
**TAGS:** PARM, TECH, EG, IAEA  
**To:** BONN IAEA VIENNA  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006